SOUTH AMERICA ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER Clinton puts science at heart of US development strategy 160th issue, August 9, 2010

By Yojana Sharma Moves by the the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to

In this issue...

put science, technology and innovation firmly at the centre of its aid Environment Global Warming

efforts have been enthusiastically endorsed by a rousing speech from secretary of state Hillary Clinton, in which she described herself as "a friend of science".

Science

firmly at the heart of USAID's work and the administration's development policy.

The meeting follows the recent appointment of a science and technology adviser and repeated calls for USAID to consider more focused approach to its support of science and technology in developing countries. In an unprecedented endorsement of STI in development, Clinton said:

Hillary Clinton: "A friend of science"

reality of the world we live in today is that technology and innovation are

Camiri Highway, in La Guardia Province.

built is dried. " Cortez affirmed.

strategy.html **Bolivia: Drought dries pasturelands affecting cattle** By Fernando Rojas Moreno Drought started drying pasture and is limiting forage in several communities located 50km from

"This situation is getting worse everyday as pasture, plants, and artificial water wells used as natural food for cattle are dried. Cattle is losing weight and losing productivity" Jose Chavarria appointed,

small cattle farmer who lives in Cañaveral I Village.

Nely Cortez, inhabitant of Basilio Village, is facing a complicated situation as well. She said that to face

the lack of forage, she had to buy sorghum to mix it with other nutritional supplements to nurture her cattle. "We are supplying the cattle with potable water in small vessels because the water well we

During the tour carried out by municipality authorities, it was verified that in many localities water wells are dried and that cattle farmer are facing the lack of forage they are buying hydrolyzed sugarcane bagasse, pasture rolls and sorghum, and using potable water to feed the cattle.

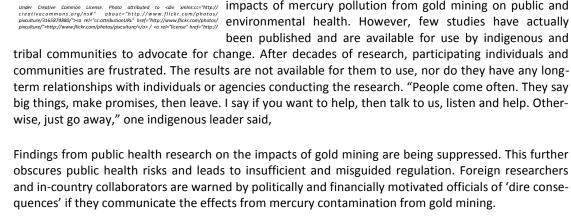
According to Nicolás Correa, Local Director for Productive and Economic Growth of La Guardia Municipality, there are 30 communities affected. In many of them, there is no water for human consumption either. However, the municipality is providing cattle farmer with logistic support to transport the hy-

risk in these 30 villages. These people lost their sesame and corn crops too. Read more at http://www.eldeber.com.bo/2010/2010-08-26/vernotaahora.php?id=100825215705

Preliminary reports show that there are about 1.000 households affected and 12.000 cattle heads in

which they are over-studied in their settings. While scientists collect samples and study risk, indigenous individuals and communities are frustrated because they are not benefiting adequately from the results. They recommend that researchers

In Suriname, risk assessment studies estimated the potential impacts of mercury pollution from gold mining on public and



with nature."

big things, make promises, then leave. I say if you want to help, then talk to us, listen and help. Other-Findings from public health research on the impacts of gold mining are being suppressed. This further obscures public health risks and leads to insufficient and misguided regulation. Foreign researchers and in-country collaborators are warned by politically and financially motivated officials of 'dire consequences' if they communicate the effects from mercury contamination from gold mining. Defenders of scientific censorship claim that a government has the right to set policy and deliver its

Indigenous communities are pointing to the frequency with

environmental health. However, few studies have actually been published and are available for use by indigenous and

key element of Andean culture and is central to cocaine production. But recently, he's seemed more keen to stump on behalf of Mother Earth, chastising the developed world's lamentable environmental track record and vowing to lead the planet toward a more sustainable future. Last week, his government made history when the U.N. voted unanimously to accept Bolivia's proposal to make water a human right. "In the hands of capitalism everything becomes a commodity: the water, the soil, the

ancestral cultures and life itself," Morales wrote in a 2008 open letter on climate change. "Humankind is capable of saving the earth if we recover the principles of solidarity, complementarity and harmony

Yet in his own backyard, Morales isn't looking so eco-valiant. Indeed, a series of environmentally disruptive development projects have many critics claiming that the leader of South America's poorest nation is more talk than walk when it comes to the fragile planet earth. "Morales' environmental cru-

The government insists projects like the one through Isiboro-Sécure must be done. The number of paved highways in Bolivia can be counted on one hand. Furthermore, the Morales administration says

and is necessary to enhance goods transport between the regions. Currently getting from one side to the other means driving three times as far through the eastern state of Santa Cruz. But Isiboro-Sécure is home to numerous unique flora and fauna species, including 11 endangered animals. Meanwhile, TIPNIS is the last remaining territory where Moya's ethnic Mojene people live in relative cultural isolation. Thus, the highway has provoked outrage and protests that have already claimed two lives. "We know we need development," Moya says, "but it shouldn't have to lead to extinction." Read more at http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2009004,00.html?xid=rss-topstories

that the 300-km road that runs through the preserve will connect the states of Beni and Cochabamba

bon Disclosure Project (CDP), said that transport could have a "major long-term impact on climate change" if strategic investments are not made. Analysts surveyed 291 of the largest transport companies in the world said that only 36 percent of them have set carbon and e-

Sixty percent of South American firms had set targets to reduce their emissions, followed by 52 percent of European firms, 47 percent of North American firms, 30 percent of firms from Australia and New Zealand and only 18 percent of Asian firms. The researchers singled out Air France-KLM, EasyJet, Canadian National Railways, Toyota, and UPS as among the minority of companies reporting significant investments. "As the first real glimpse into the

transport sector's impact on climate change, I'm pleased to see that there are some clear leaders making good progress in setting targets and making investments in low-carbon alternatives," said

The CDP, which claims that its study is the first of its kind in the transportation industry, looked at firms including airlines, automakers, train operators, car rental firms and freight companies and found

tine Chamber of Commerce's August 26 conference on "Argentina: Economic and Political Perspectives." In the province of Córdoba, Under Secretary McHale will meet with provincial officials, local entrepreneurs, and officials of the University of Córdoba, one of the oldest universities in Latin America.

In Uruguay, Under Secretary McHale will meet with high-level government representatives and business leaders, science students at the Alianza Cultural Uruguay-Estados Unidos bi-national centre, and members of the Embassy's online community. She will also speak in Montevideo at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas and Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-USA's August 31 conference on

US top official to visit Argentina, Uruguay and Chile from August 24 through

During her visit to Argentina, Under Secretary McHale will meet in Buenos Aires with government officials, alumni of U.S. Government youth and professional exchange programs, and Argentine social media entrepreneurs. She also will speak at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas and Argen-

Read more at http://en.mercopress.com/2010/08/24/us-top-official-to-visit-argentina-uruguay-and-chile Japan is exploring cooperation on space research in Latin America A delegation of Japanese scientific authorities and businessmen started a tour in Brazil, which will include Argentina and Peru to explore cooperain the

In the case of Brazil, who has experience in developing and launching sa-

tellites, Japan intends to work on the development of small-size satellites and hypersensors, allowing monitoring mineral resources from the space, Shuichi Kaneko explained, Director of the Space Industry Office of the

"Brazil is at an advanced level regarding space technology. Argentina is at a middle level, and Peru is at an incipient stage. We can help them to wide

Corporation, which would participate in a workshop with their Brazilian

They will visit Argentina by next week and will be in Peru on September 1.

REO Esteban Sandoval will attend Climate Change and Disaster Response

pairs in Sao José do Campo, centre of the Brazilian space industry.

tion possibilities on spatial issues.

He considered that space technology opens a new cooperation field for both countries and that can be used in mining, agriculture, and environment protection. Read more at http://es.noticias.yahoo.com/11/20100825/twl-ams-gen-japon-cooperacion-1be00ca.html

REO Director Indran Amirthanayagam in Ecuador.

Tomonori Nishimura, NEC Vice President, recalled that Brazil and Japan have already started cooperation on digital television, which allowed Brazil to develop a transmission system that has been imple-

X Latin American Congress on Botany - La Serena, Chile. Oct 4-10, 2010 IV COBER and II ECC International Fair 2010 on Clean Technologies, and Effi-Oct 11-16, 2010 cient Use of Energy, Lima. Organized by GOP. Key note addressed by REO Indran Amirthanayagam.

Conference in Panama.

Washington D.C.

Sen. John Kerry [D-MA] – Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act. Sep 30, 2009 – Introduced (referred to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee)

Nov 5, 2009: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amend-

The information contained herein was gathered from news sources from across the region, and the

Rep. Henry Waxman [D-CA30] - American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. May 15, 2009 - Introduced (referred to 15 different committees: http://www.govtrack.us/congress/ bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=committees May 21, 2009 – Reported by committee (2 proposed amendments:

lendar No. 97. Track this bill here: http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454

 Technology "Innovation, science [and] technology must again become fundamental • Energy components of how we conduct development work," Clinton told a high Education -level meeting of international development and science experts in Health Washington DC this week (14 July). Conservation REO HUB and ESTH Out-The meeting, entitled 'Transforming Development through Science • Technology and Innovation' (STI), was originally billed as a consultation reach to help map out a "bold new" science strategy for the US Agency for International Development (USAID). But observers said it went beyond that, putting science and innovation

"While talent may be distributed universally, opportunity is not. And the Flickr/sskennel the great equalisers and can be used to create opportunity where there is very little of that commodity." She added: "Innovation and technology can do for human development today what the Green Revolution did for agriculture and we can generate significant yields from very modest inputs." Read more at http://www.scidev.net/en/latin-america-and-caribbean/news/clinton-puts-science-at-heart-of-us-development-

drolyzed sugarcane bagasse from sugar plants to their venues.

According to him, the major concern is the lack of forage to feed the cattle. He explained that most of his cows used to produce 5lt of milk a day, but at the present they do not reach 2lt.

Suriname: Health research in Suriname, where science and indigenous knowledge meet

recognise the effects of 'research pollution': that is reticence, despair, mistrust and non-disclosure.

Bolivia's Eco-President: How Green Is Evo Morales? By Jean Friedman Rudovsky Bolivian President Evo Morales' favorite cause-célèbre has always been coca — the small leaf that is a

own message in its own words. Under this system, research is highly institutionalised and is an integral part of political structures: funding agencies, universities, development programmes and policies. Research is regarded as the domain of governmentally sanctioned experts who have advanced educa-

tional qualifications and have access to highly specialised language, skills and resources.

Read more at http://www.eldeber.com.bo/2010/2010-08-26/vernotaahora.php?id=100825215705

sade feels like just a show," says Adolfo Moya, president of TIPNIS, an indigenous community located within Bolivia's Isiboro-Sécure National Park, where construction is about to begin on a highway that will cut through the heart of protected area.

South American transport firms want to be the greenest, study says

those based in South America were the most likely to have set reduction targets.

A new report has accused transportation companies of lagging

behind other sectors when it comes to greening their act.

CDP's Zoe Tcholak-Antitch.

greenest-study-says-2054924.html

"Innovation and Social Development."

legislators and visit cultural sites.

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mented by several countries in Latin America.

REO Hub and ESTH Outreach

Aug 30—Sept 4, 2010

Sept 8-10, 2010

Sept 28-Oct 2, 2010

U.S. Climate Change Bills

congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2996

ment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Oct 6-7, 2010

HR 2996

S. 1733

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September 2, 2010

The report, from a global study conducted by the non-profit Carnergy targets, compared to 51 percent of the "Global 500 Index" of companies across all sectors.

"The overwhelming conclusion, however, is that the sector as a whole needs to transform and realize the opportunity to make a profound impact on the environment and the business benefits to reducing emissions." The areas where cuts need to be made could not have been more clearer - road transportation accounts for a whopping 80 percent of the sector's total CO2 contribution, followed by air (13 percent) and sea transportation (7 percent). Read more at http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/south-american-transport-firms-want-to-be-the-

In Chile, Under Secretary McHale will meet with Chilean government representatives, university officials, and top media figures. She also will meet with Chilean academics and students to discuss ways to expand English language instruction and scientific exchanges. At the American Academy of Science and Technology in Santiago, Under Secretary McHale will inaugurate "ViewSpace," which provides Hubble telescope and NASA-related imagery through online educational presentations.

In Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Under Secretary McHale will meet with Chilean women

the use of space information" Kaneko said to journalists. Japanese delegation includes governmental representatives and representatives of companies like NEC, Mitsubishi, Hitachi, Fujitsu, and Axelspace

Ministry of Economy, Commerce, and Industry of Japan.

REO Indran Amirthanayagam in Suriname. Sept 13-18, 2010 Sept 13-24, 2010 **REO Adriana Quevedo will undertake the ESTH Tradecraft Training** Programme.

REO Indran Amirthanayagam in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

REO Indran Amirthanayagam will participate in HUB meeting in

Rep. Norman Dicks [D-WA6] - Dep. of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 Oct 30, 2009 - Became Public Law No: 111-88. Read about this law here: http://www.govtrack.us/

Feb 2, 2010: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Track this bill here: http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1733 HR 2454

views expressed below do not necessarily reflect those of the Regional Environmental HUB Office

to do so. For questions or comments, please contact us at quevedoa@state.gov.

http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=amendments) June 26, 2009 – Passed House. Bill now goes to Senate vote. July 7, 2009 - Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Caor of our constituent posts. Addressees interested in sharing any ESTH-related events of USG interest are welcome